Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
911

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.." ~ *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

ISICSB MISSION

"The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system."

ISICSB Website   **Interop Website**

New Approved ISICS Users

- Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative—Level 2
- Des Moines County Sheriff's Office—Level 2
- Floyd County Communications—Level 1
- Hancock County (update) - Level 4
- Henry County Sheriff's Office (update)—Level 3
- Iowa DOC North Central Correctional Facility (update) - Level 2
- Iowa Medical and Classification Center—Level 2
- State Center Police Department—Level 2
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service—Level 2
- Winnebago County Communications (update)—Level 3
- Winneshiek County Emergency Management (update)—Level 2

To Join ISICS

For more info about joining ISICS click **HERE**

To start the process to JOIN ISICS click **HERE**

If you need assistance or have questions regarding the ISICS joining process, please contact SWIC Haley Nichols @ **nichols@dps.state.ia.us**

HAPPENINGS
View calendar **HERE**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *New*   We Would like to invite you to take a short survey giving feedback as to how to improve the ISICSB Newsletter **TAKE SURVEY**

- *New*   Click **HERE** to subscribe to our by-monthly newsletter

- *New*   Bookmark our **Education and Training** page on the ISICSB website to stay up-to-date on all training offerings

- *New*   Click **HERE** to read the February 2023 CISA Report

- *New*   Click **HERE** to read the March 2023 CISA Report

- Region 15 700 MHz & 800 MHz Regional Planning Committee Meeting **MORE INFO**

- If you would like to join one of the Regional Interoperability Committees, click **HERE**

- Announcement for current and future FirstNet Users and those with questions regarding FirstNet **READ MORE**

Note from the SWIC

I am 3 months into the position of Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and would like to continue to extend gratitude to all those assisting me to acclimate to the position. I am grateful for all those I have met and who have imparted wisdom to me so far.   As I have traveled around the state and spoken with numerous agencies, I hear very positive responses on the ISICS platform and the progress of a dedicated public safety communications platform that bridges the interoperability gap.

Upcoming and ongoing projects include:

* A statewide Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP)
* Iowa Interoperable Field Operations Guide (FOG)
* Update and create online training for Statusboard and ISICS operations
* Provide ISICS information to interested agencies
* Interoperability meetings with the state of Illinois
* Updating and revising the participant application to join ISICS
* 2023 Homeland Security Grant request for 25 cache radios

There is a suite of COMU courses slated for the year.   You can find those on the website under announcements and under education and training.

In May I will attend the NCSWIC National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators spring meeting. I look forward to meeting with my fellow SWICs to understand what other states are doing that could benefit Iowa and share our successes.

Thank you to the Board for your dedication to the mission of the successful operation of the public safety communications interoperability system. To our new Committee Chairs, thank you for your willingness to take on that important role.   ~~ SWIC Nichols

Shared Services for 9-1-1

In 2017, Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management partnered with the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) to use FirstNet/AT&T as the backup connection for Iowa-based Public Safety Answering points (PSAPs) providing 9-1-1 services to Iowans. ICN uses the FirstNet infrastructure to provide a separate, redundant network for 9-1-1 traffic.

The partnership was a cost saving measure for PSAPs by eliminating the need to fund their own individual call answering equipment through the use of shared technology, with no degradation of service or negative impact to the call takers. The PSAP's remote equipment is connected to the State's host equipment through the ICN. Adding FirstNet to the shared services environment helps ensure PSAPs continue to receive their calls even if the primary ICN connection goes down. Before shared services, there was just one connection into the PSAP.

Other benefits of the shared services, the cost of which HSEMD splits 50/50 with the PSAPs, include computer-aided dispatch, emergency medical dispatch, logging and mapping. Any PSAP may opt into those functions. The FirstNet backup—a separate virtual-private network within FirstNet's infrastructure—is another benefit of the arrangement with ICN.

As of January 2023, approximately 70 out of 112 of Iowa's PSAPs have enrolled in the shared service program.

Sources:

- *https://gcn.com/cloud-infrastructure/2021/04/iowa-taps-into-firstnet-for-911-backup/315360/*
- *https://icn.iowa.gov/news/icn-joins-firstnetr-deliver-backup-connections-public-safety*
- *https://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/when-fiber-fails-firstnet-connects-iowa%E2%80%99s-9-1-1-calls*

New ISICSB Board Member—Travis Solem

My name is Travis Solem, and I have been the Director of Lee County Consolidated Dispatch (LeeComm) in Southeast Iowa since 2018. I started my career as a dispatcher in 2002 in Poweshiek County. I eventually became Jail Administrator and then the Dispatch Supervisor before settling into the job I love.

At 40 years old, I thought I needed a challenge in my life, so why not go back to college, right? While adjusting to classwork, I received my degree in Business Administration after being away from it for 20 years. I felt I Couldn't expect my kids to get an education if I wasn't going to practice what I was preaching, so I have a newfound respect for anyone going to college after some time away.

My greatest accomplishment as Director of LeeComm was the Lee County radio project. My position as Director has posed many challenges that helped me prepare for the large project. After what seemed like forever, I am very proud to say that we are now new users of the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communication System, which has improved communication for not only LeeComm but also all emergency services in Lee County.

I am very thankful for my staff at LeeComm. Without their hard work, dedication, and commitment, I could not be as successful as I have been. I can't forget our office dog, Obi. He is a great partner that helps the bad days seem a little better.

I enjoy spending time with my wife, five children, and five grandchildren. We just recently got into camper life. When not attending sporting events for our grandchildren, we travel the state with our camper, mostly enjoying what State Parks Iowa has to offer.

New FirstNet Sites

One new 4G cell site has launched; includes Band 14 for first responders:

- Near Knoxville, Pella, and Oskaloosa in **Harvey, IA**

FirstNet Gearing Up for RAGBRAI 2023

FirstNet Authority is gearing up for RAGBRAI 2023. Click **HERE** to learn more about the services offered and pre-planning efforts.

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FirstNet Resources

⇒ **FirstNet Forms**
⇒ **FirstNet New Sites**
⇒ **FirstNet Roadmap**
⇒ **FirstNet FAQs**
⇒ **FirstNet Newsletters**
⇒ **FirstNet Apps**